

# Health Advisory: Metro Measles Outbreak and Vaccine Recommendations

Minnesota Department of Health, Thurs, Aug 22 12:00 CDT 2024

## Action Steps

**Local and tribal health department:** Please forward to hospitals, clinics, urgent care centers, emergency departments, and convenience clinics in your jurisdiction.

**Hospitals, clinics and other facilities:** Please forward to family physicians, pediatricians, infection preventionists, primary care clinicians, infectious disease doctors, and emergency department staff.

**Health care providers:**

- Consider accelerating the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccination series for children 12 months and older at high risk for measles who live in the Twin Cities metro area (Details below).
- Create a triage and isolation plan for patients presenting with measles symptoms (Link to resources below).
- Identify and recall children who are overdue or recommended for a dose of MMR using the client follow up feature in the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC). For more information refer to the resources below or go to [MDH: Client Follow-Up MIIC User Guidance and Training Resources](https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/followup.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/followup.html>).
- Obtain specimens from symptomatic patients for PCR testing. Test after onset of rash; testing before onset of rash can lead to false-negative results: [MDH: Lab Testing for Measles at the MDH Public Health Laboratory](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/labtesting.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/labtesting.html>)
- Report suspected cases and contact MDH at 1-877-676-5414 or 651-201-5414 with questions.

## Outbreak Update

From Jan. 1 to Aug. 20, 2024, there have been 34 confirmed measles cases reported in Minnesota, all in Twin Cities metropolitan counties. Ongoing local transmission of measles is occurring in Hennepin County. Thirty-three of 34 cases range in age from 7 months through 9 years and were unvaccinated at time of exposure. Cases in July and August were associated with community spread. Clinicians should continue to have high suspicion for measles in patients presenting with compatible symptoms (rash, high fever, cough, and runny nose), especially among unvaccinated persons.

## Measles Outbreak Vaccine Recommendations - Twin Cities

Providers that care for patients in communities with high numbers of unvaccinated and under-vaccinated children living in the Twin Cities metropolitan area should consider **accelerating the two-dose MMR series for children 12 months and older:**

- Administer the first dose of MMR on (or as soon as possible after) the first birthday, followed by a second dose 28 days later.
- Administer the second MMR dose now if it has been at least 28 days since the first MMR dose and no other live virus injectable vaccines (i.e., varicella vaccine) have been administered in the past 28 days.

## Measles Outbreak Prevention Recommendations- All Providers

### Exposed Patients: Prophylaxis

- Infants 6-11 months old with known exposure to measles: Administer MMR vaccine within 72 hours from time of first exposure to a case as part of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) protocol. This dose is only effective if given within 72 hours of the child's first exposure to a case. Contact MDH for clarification or questions around exposure timing.
- Refer to full PEP guidance for all ages: [MDH: Measles Post-Exposure Prophylaxis \(PEP\) for Non-Symptomatic Susceptible Contacts](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/measlespep.pdf) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/measlespep.pdf>)
- Report all suspected measles exposures to MDH at 1-877-676-5414 or 651-201-5414.

### Identify Who Needs Vaccine

- Assess MMR vaccination status for **every** patient at every visit.
- Prioritize MMR vaccination by adding vaccine-only appointments as needed.
- Identify and recall children who are overdue or recommended for a dose of MMR vaccine.
  - The Client Follow Up (CFU) feature in MIIC can be used to identify and recall these children in your practice. For more information on utilizing CFU, refer to our user guidance page: [MDH: Client Follow-Up MIIC User Guidance and Training Resources](https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/followup.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/miic/train/followup.html>)
  - Once you have a list of patients identified as unvaccinated and under vaccinated you can use it to implement your own reminders or participate in the MIIC texting program to send MMR specific texts to patients.
  - For more information on the MIIC texting program, email [health.miictexting@state.mn.us](mailto:health.miictexting@state.mn.us). The texting program is easy to set up and requires just a few details through email to ensure the correct patients are identified and sent messages.

### Clinic Infection Control

- Be prepared to manage potentially infectious patients.
- More information on creating a triage and isolation plan: [MDH: Minimize Measles Transmission in Health Care Settings](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/minimize.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/minimize.html>).

### For More Information

- [MDH: Measles Vaccination Recommendations](https://www.health.mn.gov/diseases/measles/hcp/vaxrecs.html) (<https://www.health.mn.gov/diseases/measles/hcp/vaxrecs.html>)
- [MDH: Measles Information for Health Care Providers](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/index.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/measles/hcp/index.html>)
- [CDC: Talking to Parents about Vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/conversations/conv-materials.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/conversations/conv-materials.html>)

A copy of this HAN is available at: [MDH Health Alert Network](http://www.health.state.mn.us/han) (<http://www.health.state.mn.us/han>)  
The content of this message is intended for public health and health care personnel and response partners who have a need to know the information to perform their duties.